



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 21, 2011

RAINFALL NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CROPS

Precipitation across Tennessee last week was sparse, leaving all areas needing a good general rain. Farmers expressed concern that conditions will deteriorate rapidly without significant rainfall, soon. Despite these dry conditions the majority of the corn, soybean, cotton, and tobacco crops remain in good-to-excellent condition. Pastures are not fairing as well, with the majority of the acreage in fair-to-good condition. Some cattle producers are feeding hay. Farm activities last week included equipment maintenance, topping tobacco, harvesting tobacco, hay, and corn silage, and spraying fungicides and insecticides.

There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 19 percent very short, 43 percent short and 38 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 16 percent very short, 41 percent short and 43 percent adequate. Temperatures were near or slightly above normal across the state for week ending August 21, 2011. Precipitation was non-existent in some areas, while other areas received as much as an inch and a half.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Dough	96	90	99	97	Corn	2	8	24	53	13
Corn – Dent	77	62	95	87	Cotton	0	1	23	64	12
Corn – Mature	21	12	50	32	Pastures	6	18	39	34	3
Corn – Silage Harvested	63	43	66	56	Soybeans	2	7	26	55	10
Cotton – Setting Bolls	99	93	99	99	Tobacco	3	9	25	49	14
Cotton – Bolls Opening	2	n/a	25	13						
Soybeans – Blooming	98	93	99	97						
Soybeans – Setting Pods	82	72	92	89						
Soybeans – Dropping Leaves	3	n/a	13	10						
Tobacco – Topped	78	65	78	78						
Tobacco – Burley Harvested	32	20	26	23						
Tobacco – Dark Air-Cured Harvested	41	25	40	33						
Tobacco – Dark Fire-Cured Harvested	41	27	44	31						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Crop conditions are changing rapidly due to soil moisture. Soybeans and cotton are both in the fruit formation stage and are in need of moisture. Situations are becoming serious without a good rain soon.”

J.C. Dupree, Jr., Lauderdale County

“The farmers in Fayette County, depending on where they farm, had another dry week. We did have showers a few days but they were scattered and limited. Farmers have started to harvest corn and a few bolls are cracking open in cotton. Other activities included spraying PGR's in cotton, controlling pest and cutting hay. Crops look fair to good but need a rain although it may be too late.”

Jeffery D. Via, Fayette County

“We have reached a critical point for soybeans with eminent rainfall needed for the majority of the county. Corn harvest has started on a few early planted acres.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“No rain for the county and some very mild temperatures early in the week. Lots of 2nd and even 3rd cuttings of hay being made. Some producers anticipate harvesting corn within the next week.”

Kevin Rose, Giles County

“Farmers were busy this past week harvesting second and third cutting of hay, spraying beans with fungicides and herbicides, and getting ready to begin harvesting corn, with some limited shelling taking place. Insect and disease pressure has been light to moderate in soybeans and cotton. Pastures are showing signs of needing rain, no hay feeding yet.”

Ed Burns, Franklin County

“No rain for the last 8 days combined with high temps has started to roll the corn leaves and has stopped grass growth on most pastures. Too early to tell about fall hay but even the Johnson grass looks stressed.”

Scott Chadwell, Putnam County

“Less than an inch of rain since mid July make things look real bad. Most pastures are gone, ponds are getting very low and producers are feeding hay or have sold some cattle. Apple harvest is underway with some varieties being very small due to dry conditions. We need some relief but there is not much help in sight.”

Kim Frady, Bradley County

“Drought conditions are with us again with only 1.88" of rain in July and .32" in 19 days of August. Almost every day during this time, we have been 90 degrees or more and 90% of that time, pushing 100 degrees. We have weaned some of calves early, and they were lighter than expected due to the drought and heat. We have also been feeding hay to half our herd for the last 10 days and we will have to start feeding the other half by the first of the week.”

Tom Stebbins, Hamilton County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: August 21, 2011 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending August 21, 2011				Current Week 08/21/11	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	95	58	77	-1	0.29	3	38.96	4.65	26.44	5.90
Brownsville_TN	93	61	78	-2	0.26	2	42.13	7.75	29.55	8.97
Covington	91	60	76	-3	0.00	0	41.41	7.88	29.72	9.87
Dyersburg	93	59	78	-2	0.00	0	36.07	3.27	22.90	2.92
Huntingdon_Wate	94	60	77	0	0.00	0	42.82	8.52	28.51	7.97
Jackson_Exp_Stn	93	59	77	-1	0.08	1	42.68	8.58	30.84	10.02
Lexington_TN	95	61	78	0	0.02	1	35.56	2.23	24.03	3.89
Martin	94	60	79	2	0.26	1	46.21	11.57	29.76	8.36
Memphis_AG	94	61	78	-4	1.56	3	42.45	8.85	30.83	10.72
Milan	93	59	76	0	0.05	1	44.48	9.21	30.53	8.88
Paris	92	60	76	0	0.02	1	47.84	13.76	31.85	11.28
Savannah_6SW	96	57	78	-1	0.00	0	40.69	3.45	26.15	4.37
Selmer	95	59	77	2	0.04	1	39.74	3.11	27.41	6.02
Union_City	92	57	76	-1	0.00	0	44.81	11.08	29.64	9.09
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	93	60	77	1	0.68	1	45.15	12.06	30.74	11.30
Cookeville	92	56	74	-2	0.15	2	47.39	9.86	30.92	8.42
Crossville_AP	88	55	73	1	0.00	0	39.50	2.43	24.85	2.80
Dickson_AG	94	60	76	-1	0.07	2	39.13	3.86	23.96	2.70
Dover_1W	92	60	76	1	0.29	2	48.57	14.28	31.98	11.59
Fayetteville_TN	95	59	77	2	0.00	0	42.65	7.22	25.97	5.82
Jamestown	88	55	71	-2	0.05	1	47.39	11.16	29.74	7.35
Kingston_Spring	96	58	77	2	0.69	3	34.68	0.93	21.59	1.81
Lawrenceburg_Fl	95	60	77	2	0.25	2	41.16	4.50	27.28	6.44
Lewisburg	94	58	75	-1	0.02	1	41.62	5.40	26.36	4.72
Linden	94	60	77	2	0.39	2	39.31	2.70	26.47	4.85
Livingston_WLIV	93	58	75	1	0.22	2	46.48	11.50	27.39	5.93
Murfreesboro_5N	94	58	76	-2	0.22	1	39.60	4.74	25.62	4.54
Nashville_Metro	95	63	78	-1	1.15	1	34.62	3.24	22.17	3.03
Oneida	89	55	73	1	0.28	2	51.82	15.43	32.99	10.47
Portland_TN	92	61	76	1	0.49	1	40.37	6.24	24.33	3.50
Pulaski_Water_P	93	59	75	-3	0.00	0	46.03	10.05	31.24	10.65
Shelbyville	95	60	77	0	0.18	1	45.01	8.73	28.64	7.24
Sparta_TN	93	56	75	1	0.03	1	44.16	7.76	28.48	6.65
Springfield	94	60	76	2	1.20	1	39.96	7.19	25.69	5.79
Springhill	96	57	76	0	0.57	2	32.77	-3.59	20.41	-1.34
Tullahoma	95	60	78	2	0.27	1	38.66	1.29	24.63	3.23
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	99	64	81	4	0.00	0	36.67	1.50	18.28	-1.16
Cleveland_6NNE	97	60	79	4	0.24	3	30.71	-5.38	16.28	-4.25
Dayton	95	60	78	2	0.00	0	36.67	-0.25	19.97	-0.93
Erwin_1W	89	57	73	2	0.46	3	35.64	2.15	24.13	2.15
Gatlinburg_2SW	89	56	73	2	0.63	4	41.60	3.19	27.15	2.68
Greeneville	92	56	74	0	1.32	2	31.78	2.64	21.16	2.71
Kingston_AG	93	61	77	4	0.00	0	37.69	-1.18	21.24	-1.55
Knoxville_AP	93	61	78	3	0.28	1	31.25	-0.77	17.29	-1.41
Newcomb	89	58	74	2	0.27	1	43.29	6.90	28.78	6.26
Norris_4NE	89	58	74	-2	0.17	1	40.66	5.47	24.11	2.81
Tri-City_RGNL_A	90	57	75	2	0.69	3	32.88	5.33	20.13	2.95

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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